

## In the Claims

1. **(original):** An aluminum flake comprising  
(A1) a layer consisting of  $\text{SiO}_z$ ,  
(B) a layer consisting of aluminum on the layer (A1) and  
(A2) a layer consisting of  $\text{SiO}_z$  on the layer (B), wherein  
 $0.70 \leq z \leq 2.0$ .
2. **(original):** An aluminum flake according to claim 1, comprising  
(C1) a layer consisting of  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  
(A1) a layer consisting of  $\text{SiO}_y$  on the layer (C1),  
(B) a layer consisting of aluminum on the layer (A1),  
(A2) a layer consisting of  $\text{SiO}_y$  on the layer (B) and  
(C2) a layer consisting of  $\text{SiO}_2$  on the layer (A2), wherein  
 $0.95 \leq y \leq 2.0$ .
3. **(currently amended):** An aluminum flake comprising  
(D1) a layer consisting of  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  
(B) a layer consisting of aluminum on the layer (D1) and  
(D2) a layer consisting of  $\text{SiO}_2$  on the layer (B), wherein the layer thickness of the  $\text{SiO}_2$  layer is  
from 200 to 500 nm, ~~especially 200 to 350 nm.~~
4. **(currently amended):** An aluminum flake according to ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1, ~~to 3,~~ wherein the  
layer thickness of the layer (B) consisting of aluminum is from 10 to 100 nm, ~~preferably from 30  
to 50 nm.~~
5. **(currently amended):** An aluminum flake according to claim 1, ~~or 2,~~ wherein the layer thickness  
of the layers (A1) and (A2) consisting of  $\text{SiO}_z$ , ~~the layer thickness of the layers (D1) and (D2)  
consisting of  $\text{SiO}_2$ , the layer thickness of the layer (A1) consisting of  $\text{SiO}_y$  and of the layer (C1)  
consisting of  $\text{SiO}_2$  and the layer thickness of the layer (A2) consisting of  $\text{SiO}_y$  and of the layer  
(C2) consisting of  $\text{SiO}_2$  is from 200 to 350 nm,~~ preferably from 250 to 300 nm.
6. **(currently amended):** A pigment based on the aluminum flakes according to ~~any one of claim~~  
[[s]] 1, ~~2, 3, 4 and 5,~~ comprising on the layers (A1) and (A2) ~~or on the layers (C1) and (C2) or on~~

the layers (D1) and (D2) or over the entire surface of the aluminum flakes a layer (E) consisting of a dielectric material having a "high" refractive index, especially  $\text{TiO}_2$ , or carbon, preferably diamond-like carbon.

7. **(currently amended):** A pigment based on the aluminum flakes according to ~~any one of claim~~ ~~[[s]] 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5,~~ comprising over the entire surface of the aluminum flakes a layer (F) consisting of from 50 to 95 % by weight carbon, from 5 to 25 % by weight nitrogen and from 0 to 25 % by weight of the elements hydrogen, oxygen and/or sulfur, the percentage by weight data relating to the total weight of the layer (F).
8. **(currently amended):** A pigment according to ~~any one of claim~~ ~~[[s]] 6, or 7,~~ wherein the layer thickness of the layer (E) ~~or (F)~~ is from 10 to 150 nm, ~~preferably from 30 to 70 nm.~~
9. **(cancelled)**
10. **(currently amended):** A paint, electrostatic coating, in ink-jet printing, cosmetic, coating, printing ink, plastics material, glaze for ceramics and glass, or security printing composition comprising an aluminum flake according to ~~any one of claim~~ ~~[[s]] 1, to 5 or a pigment according to claim 6, 7 or 8.~~
11. **(new):** A paint, electrostatic coating, in ink-jet printing, cosmetic, coating, printing ink, plastics material, glaze for ceramics and glass, or security printing composition comprising a pigment according to claim 6.
12. **(new):** An aluminum flake according to claim 3, wherein the layer thickness of the  $\text{SiO}_2$  layers (D1) and (D2) is from 200 to 350 nm.
13. **(new):** An aluminum flake according to claim 1, wherein the layer thickness of the layer (B) consisting of aluminum is from 30 to 50 nm.
14. **(new):** An aluminum flake according to claim 3, wherein the layer thickness of the layer (B) consisting of aluminum is from 10 to 100 nm.

15. **(new):** An aluminum flake according to claim 2, wherein the layer thickness of the layers (A1) and (A2) consisting of  $\text{SiO}_y$ , and the layer thickness of the layers (C1) and (C2) consisting of  $\text{SiO}_2$  is from 200 to 350 nm.
16. **(new):** A pigment based on the aluminum flakes according to claim 6, wherein the layer (E) consists of  $\text{TiO}_2$  or carbon.
17. **(new):** A pigment based on the aluminum flakes according to claim 2, comprising on the layers (A1) and (A2) or on the layers (C1) and (C2) or on the layers (D1) and (D2) or over the entire surface of the aluminum flakes a layer (E) consisting of a dielectric material having a "high" refractive index.
18. **(new):** A pigment based on the aluminum flakes according to claim 2, comprising over the entire surface of the aluminum flakes a layer (F) consisting of from 50 to 95 % by weight carbon, from 5 to 25 % by weight nitrogen and from 0 to 25 % by weight of the elements hydrogen, oxygen and/or sulfur, the percentage by weight data relating to the total weight of the layer (F).
19. **(new):** A pigment according to claim 6, wherein the layer thickness of the layer (E) is from 30 to 70 nm:
20. **(new):** A pigment according to claim 7, wherein the layer thickness of the layer (F) is from 10 to 150 nm.
21. **(new):** A pigment according to claim 7, wherein the layer thickness of the layer (F) is from from 30 to 70 nm.